

Building Biosurveillance Science

In an effort to support biosurveillance, and specifically BioSense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded a number of research grants, cooperative agreements, and Centers of Excellence funding for extramural projects. These projects are being conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of BioSense and inform how BioSense will continue to grow and improve the nation's capabilities for biosurveillance.

Grants

Research grants were awarded to 10 organizations through the BioSense Initiative to Improve Early Event Detection Request for Application (RFA). These grants will be used to explore how increased usage of electronic biosurveillance to monitor health-related data impacts early detection of disease outbreaks. Some of the hospitals and universities receiving grants are:

- Mayo Clinic
- University of Pittsburgh
- Harvard Children's Hospital
- Research Triangle Institute
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Boston University School of Public Health
- Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare
- Stanford University School of Medicine
- Johns Hopkins University.

Cooperative Agreements

BioSense's Evaluation Cooperative Agreement evaluates the existing BioSense system from a public health science point of view to ensure it is useful at the local, state, and federal levels. The work focuses on evaluating the overall approach, data accuracy, data use, system utility, and cost effectiveness of BioSense. Five organizations are participating in this cooperative agreement:

- Johns Hopkins University
- Mayo Clinic
- Emory University
- Research Triangle Institute
- International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) receives its funding through a supplement to a cooperative agreement between CDC and the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

Centers of Excellence

The Centers of Excellence in Public Health Informatics' goals are to identify new tools to enhance the ways that health information can be used to improve the health of our nation. Currently, CDC has identified the following as Centers of Excellence:

- Harvard Medical School
- University of Washington
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- University of Utah
- Johns Hopkins University

For More Information

Visit www.cdc.gov/biosense
or e-mail BiosenseHelp@cdc.gov

